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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Human Nutrition
Information
Service

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Cost of Food at Home Estimated for Food Plans¹
at Four Cost Levels, December 1988, U.S. Average¹

Sex-age groups	Cost for 1 week				Cost for 1 month			
	Thrifty plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate- cost plan	Liberal plan	Thrifty plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate- cost plan	Liberal plan
FAMILIES	Dollars				Dollars			
FAMILY OF 2:²								
20-50 years	42.80	53.90	66.70	82.80	185.40	233.60	288.70	358.90
51 years and over	40.40	51.70	64.00	76.70	175.00	224.10	277.00	331.90
FAMILY OF 4:								
Couple, 20-50 years and children--								
1-2 and 3-5 years	62.20	77.50	94.90	116.40	269.40	335.90	410.90	504.70
6-8 and 9-11 years	71.30	91.10	114.10	137.50	309.00	394.70	494.30	595.60
INDIVIDUALS³								
CHILD:								
1-2 years	11.20	13.60	15.90	19.10	48.50	59.00	68.80	82.90
3-5 years	12.10	14.90	18.40	22.00	52.40	64.50	79.60	95.50
6-8 years	14.80	19.70	24.70	28.80	64.20	85.30	106.90	124.70
9-11 years	17.60	22.40	28.80	33.40	76.30	97.00	124.90	144.60
MALE:								
12-14 years	18.40	25.40	31.70	37.20	79.90	110.00	137.50	161.30
15-19 years	19.10	26.30	32.60	37.80	82.70	113.90	141.30	163.90
20-50 years	20.40	26.10	32.70	39.50	88.50	113.00	141.60	171.30
51 years and over	18.50	24.80	30.60	36.70	80.30	107.40	132.40	158.90
FEMALE:								
12-19 years	18.30	22.00	26.70	32.30	79.40	95.30	115.70	139.90
20-50 years	18.50	22.90	27.90	35.80	80.00	99.40	120.90	155.00
51 years and over	18.20	22.20	27.60	33.00	78.80	96.30	119.40	142.80

¹ Assumes that food for all meals and snacks is purchased at the store and prepared at home. Estimates for the thrifty food plan were computed from quantities of foods published in Family Economics Review (1984 No. 1). Estimates for the other plans were computed from quantities of foods published in Family Economics Review (1983 No. 2). The costs of the food plans are estimated by updating prices paid by households surveyed in 1977-78 in USDA's Nationwide Food Consumption Survey. USDA updates these survey prices using information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics: "CPI Detailed Report", table 4, to estimate the costs for the food plans.

² Ten percent added for family size adjustment. See footnote 3.

³ The costs given are for individuals in 4-person families. For individuals in other size families, the following adjustments are suggested: 1-person--add 20 percent; 2-person-- add 10 percent; 3-person--add 5 percent; 5- or 6-person--subtract 5 percent; 7- or more- person--subtract 10 percent.

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